

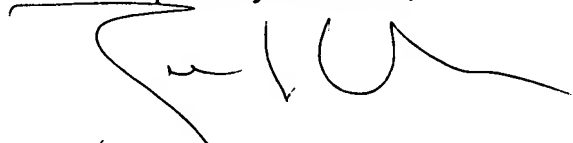
REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully submits this Preliminary Amendment for the above-referenced ***DIVISIONAL*** patent application based on U.S. Application No. 10/156,633 filed on 05/28/2002 and entitled "Method Of Protecting The Pole Piece Of A Magnetic Head During The Ion Mill Patterning Of The Yoke".

A restriction requirement for the *parent* U.S. application 10/156,633 was mailed on November 24 2003. In response to the claim restrictions, claims 1-9 were elected, examined, and allowed for that application. The present Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1-9 and 19-25 of that originally-filed application, *thereby leaving claims 10-18 for examination*. The present Preliminary Amendment also amends claims 9, 12, 14, and 17 to broaden their scope. The Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by this Preliminary Amendment.

Thank you. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if necessary to further expedite this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,



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